

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL NOVEMBER 5-6: HIGHLIGHTS

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 9143 (B) EC BRUSSELS 9519

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MET IN BRUSSELS ON NOVEMBER 5 AND 6. THEIR DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE EC'S MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, ENERGY, GSP AND THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ARE REPORTED IN REFTELS. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE MINISTERS' DISCUSSION OF OTHER SUBJECTS. END SUMMARY.

2. PORTUGAL: THE MINISTERS HEARD A BRIEF REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL DE KERGORLAY'S RECENT VISIT TO LISBON. THE COUNCIL URGED THE COMMISSION TO PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSSION WITH THE PORTUGUESE ON SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS (REF. A).

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3. THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR A

NEGOTIATING MANDATE TO IMPROVE THE 1973EC/PORTUGUESE TRADE AGREEMENT HOWEVER, SOME OF THE AREAS SUGGESTED FOR MODIFICATION PRESENT PROBLEMS FOR SEVERAL MEMBER STATES: FRANCE AND ITALY ARE OPPOSED TO CONCESSIONS ON WINE AND A NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND THE UK IS OPPOSED TO CONCESSIONS ON TEXTILES. THE UK, HOWEVER, MADE WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A "STRONG STATEMENT" TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PORTUGUESE SHOULD SEE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT RUMOR SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE PORTUGUESE MUST RECEIVE CONCESSIONS SO THAT THEY ARE AT LEAST AS WELL OFF IF NOT BETTER OFF, THAN THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES. HE URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO BROADEN THEIR INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES SO THAT COREPER WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND AREAS WHERE CONCESSIONS MAY BE MADE TO BENEFIT THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY.

4. AID TO PORTUGUESE REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA: THE COUNCIL AGREED TO GRANT PORTUGAL 550 TONS OF SKIM MILK POWDER AND 400 TONS OF BUTTER OIL FROM THE COMMUNITY'S 1975 RESERVES. IN ADDITION TO AID ANGOLAN REFUGEES THE MINISTERS AGREED TO GIVE 150,000 UA TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CLOTHING, MEDICINES AND OTHER NECESSITIES.

5. SPAIN: THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED SPAIN ONLY BRIEFLY AND, WE UNDERSTAND, DID NOT REFER EITHER TO REPRESENTATION AT THE FRANCO FUNERAL OR AT THE ENTHRONEMENT OF PRINCE JUAN CARLOS. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD POINTED OUT, THAT UNDER THE PRESENT SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN THE SPANISH ENJOY CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGES DUE TO THE FAILURE OF THE BRITISH AND DANES TO FULLY ALIGN THEIR IMPORT REGULATIONS FOR SPANISH PRODUCTS WITH THOSE OF THE COMMUNITY AS SPECIFIED IN THE TREATY OF ACCESSION (SEE EC BRUSSELS 9251 FOR BACKGROUND).

6. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE DUTCH AND BRITISH DELEGATIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMISSION, NOTED THE COMMUNITY'S INABILITY TO MAKE A COMMON COMMITMENT AT THE RECENT "PLEDGING" MEETING HELD IN ROME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD). BOTH DELEGATIONS URGED THE SCHEDULING OF ANOTHER COUNCIL MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS IN AN EFFORT TO WORK OUT A POSITIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNITY RESPONSE. HOWEVER, AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE ITALIAN CHAIRMAN, THE QUESTION IS TO BE DISCUSSED AGAIN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO MEET IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR AGRICULTURE COLLEAGUES IN BRUSSELS ON NOVEMBER 25. SHOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT AT THE AT TIME, THE MATTER WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. A SOURCE HERE INDICATES THAT THIS IS LIKELY TO BE THE CASE, AS THE FRENCH DELEGATION REMAINS FIRM IN ITS OBJECTION TO ANY COMMUNITY

COMMITMENT TO IFAD AT THIS TIME. (SEE EC BRUSSELS 9917 FOR BACKGROUND).

7. UNRRA ASSISTANCE: THE COUNCIL APPROVED, WITHOUT DISCUSSION, THE GRANTING OF AN ADDITIONAL 5,000 TONS OF CEREALS TO UNWRA FOR THE BENEFIT OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES (REF. B). EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON WARNED OF THE PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL STATE OF UNWRA AND URGED THE MEMBER STATES TO INCREASE THEIR BILATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

3. EC-TURKEY: THE COUNCIL HELD A VERY BRIEF DISCUSSION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF GRANTING ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS TO TURKEY UNDER THE EC-TURKEY AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF FISH, WINE, PRESERVES, BRAN AND SHARPS. THE FRENCH DELEGATION INDICATED THEY DID NOT FEEL THIS WAS THE TIME TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CONCESSIONS AND THAT THEY WERE THEREFORE UNABLE TO LIFT THEIR RESERVATIONS.

9. PASSPORT UNION AND SPECIAL RIGHTS FOR EC CITIZENS:
THE MINISTERS HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON THESE TOPICS AND DECIDED TO FORWARD THE DOSSIERS TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WHICH IS TO MEET IN ROME ON DECEMBER 1-2.
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